

Special points of interest:

- Welcome to Melody Lee
- Upcoming events
- Seasonal Flu

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MT Immunization Program

DECEMBER 2012

Please Welcome Melody Lee—MT Immunization Program's New Program Assistant



Melody comes to us with 14 years of Administrative Assistant experience. She graduated with an Associate of Applied Science in Accounting Technology from Helena College – UM in 1998. Helena MT has been her home since March 1989. (A month after the infamous train explosion near Carroll College.) Melody's hobbies are origami and logic puzzles. She loves brain teasers and puzzles of all kinds.

Home IV Pharmacy Farewell

Since 1994, Jerry and Sharon Dotter, pharmacists at Home IV Pharmacy, have played an integral role in the Montana VFC Program. For the first 13 years, their facility in Butte served as the Montana "vaccine depot" where they stored vaccine, processed orders, and shipped vaccine to providers throughout the state.

When the CDC eliminated state depots in 2007, Jerry and Sharon learned the new centralized distribution system and continued to process and quality check orders for the program.

Over the years, they have weathered system breakdowns, upgrades, and "go-

lives," and played a key role in Montana's H1N1 response in 2009.

Through all this change, the CDC consistently gave us high marks for the integrity and accountability of our vaccine ordering process, which was almost entirely run by Home IV Pharmacy. You may not have been happy to hear from Jerry, but his adherence to the ordering and reporting rules made our VFC Program one of the tightest in the country.

The CDC recognized the value of our relationship with Home IV Pharmacy, but they also encouraged us to move these functions "in house." In 2012, we hired

Katie Grady-Selby as a Quality Specialist assigned to the VFC Program, and in 2013 we will launch our online ordering process.

With more staff and a streamlined ordering system on the way, it was time to bring our vaccine ordering to Helena.

Please join us in thanking Jerry and Sharon Dotter of Home IV Pharmacy for their 18 years of service to the Montana VFC Program.

We have big shoes to fill and are relieved that Jerry has agreed to stay through December of this year as a consultant.

VFC Influenza Update

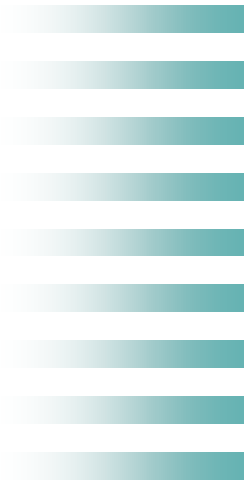


We continue to ship influenza vaccine weekly to our VFC providers. Once again, you will receive your order in small increments as it becomes available for us to allocate to our providers.

We have shipped the full amount of FluZone Multi-dose vials and

FluMist. If you did not receive your full order or would like to request additional doses of one of these types listed above, please send an e-mail directly to hhsiz@mt.gov.

If you have additional questions, please call 444-5580 or e-mail hhsiz@mt.gov.



"Having children made us look differently at all these things that we take for granted, like taking your child to get a vaccine against measles or polio."

-Melinda Gates

Montana CDC Advisors Contribute to the MMWR

Please follow the link below to view an article written by Carolyn A. Parry, MPH and Randall J. Nett, MD, regarding the Evaluation of Vaccination Recall Letter System for Medicaid-Enrolled Children aged 19-23 Months. Carolyn is a CDC Public Health Advisor

assigned to the Montana Immunization Program and Dr. Nett is a Career Epidemiology Field Advisor, also assigned to the State of Montana.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6140a3.htm?>

MMWR
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Nursing Notes

Greetings - Beginning in 2013, I am going to begin dedicating a section of the quarterly newsletter to answering some of your frequently asked questions as well as providing updates regarding trainings being offered that will provide continuing education credits - like our upcoming Regional Workshops in April! I will look forward to seeing you there, and please contact me if you have any immunization related questions at SReeser@mt.gov, or 444-1805.

Susan Reeser, RN, BSN - Immunization Nurse Consultant



VFC Order Form, Brand Choice, and New Process

On December 1st, we started processing all VFC vaccine orders through the Montana Immunization Program.

We have also started offering brand choice for single antigen Hepatitis A and B vaccine. Please refer to the memo that was sent out on November 26, 2012 for more information.

Listed below are some reminders about VFC vaccine orders:

- * Monthly VFC vaccine orders are accepted the 1st through the 15th of each month. Orders submitted after the 15th will be held until the next month.
- * Your inventory must be reconciled in imMTrax within 14 days of placing your order.

- * Follow the order submission instructions on the order form. We prefer orders be submitted by email. For emailed orders, you will receive an order confirmation by email within 3 days of receipt from the Immunization Program. If you email an order and do not receive a confirmation, please contact us at 444-5580.

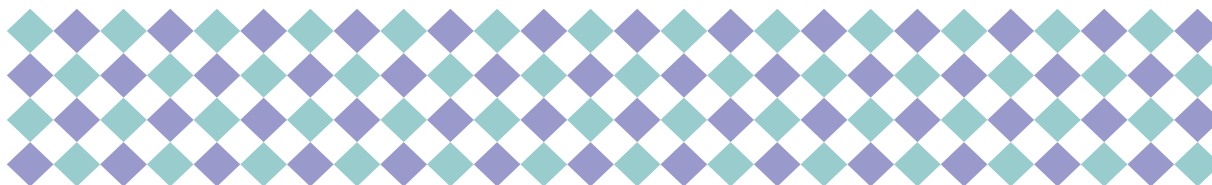
- * If you fax your order, also put a copy in the mail. Otherwise, the Immunization Program cannot be held accountable for faxed orders that are not received.

- * Contact the Immunization Program at least three months prior to VFC vaccine expiring if it will not be used. We

- * Varicella-containing vaccines (ProQuad[®] and Varivax[®]) will not automatically import into your imMTrax inventory.

When you receive these vaccines, notify the Immunization Program with the vaccine name, lot number, expiration date, and number of doses, and we will add it to your inventory.

If you have any questions regarding your orders, please contact Katie Grady-Selby at kgrady@mt.gov or 444-1613.



Cascade County Health Department Drive-Thru Flu Clinic



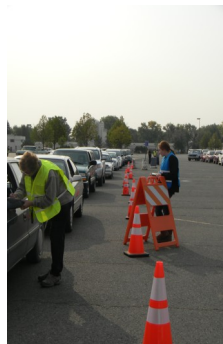
On Tuesday, September 25th, 2012 the Cascade City-County Health Department was thrilled by the community's support of the Drive Through Flu Shot Clinic.

This is a fast and convenient flu shot clinic that allows adults 18 and older to receive their influenza shot from the comfort of their own vehicle. As they wrote in their press release, "Whether you have a car, truck, four-wheeler, bike, or moped this is an opportunity for people to literally drive through to prevent the flu!"

With the help of other community organizations and volunteer groups, 769 clients received their influenza vaccination and protected themselves, and those around them, from a potentially serious illness. Along with the professional, easy, and convenient services, people had the opportunity to be entered into a drawing. Trial gym memberships and golf discounts were just a few of the exciting prizes they gave away.

Please see the posted pictures around this article provided from the Cascade County Health Department of this event that they have been holding for the past 5 years!!

For information and ideas, contact Tanya Houston at 406-452-0881 ext. 314, or Jill Boettcher at 406-791-9274. Thanks Cascade CHD!!



Nurse Training on Immunization Project



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY State University of New York

Center for Public Health Continuing Education (CPHCE) Online Learning

Online Training in Public Health

Developed by the University of Albany-SUNY, New York

Free and available 24/7

Nurse TIP

Nurse TIP recognizes that nurses play an integral role in the success of immunization programs. Nurses are often the first point of contact at any health care visit and can have considerable influence on the public health practices of a community.

Goals:

- Increasing the knowledge and competency of nurses in immunization by offering relevant content in a variety of distance-learning approaches.
- Engaging nurses in program planning, dialogues with other nurses, and exploring strategies to promote immunization.

Target Audience:

- Nurses working in medical offices, clinics, community health centers as well as other settings.
<http://www.albany.edu/sph/cphce/nursetip.shtml>

Continuing Education

You can watch past webcasts on Immunization right now on your computer.

CASE Method Role Play

Staff Immunization

Travel Immunizations: Shots or Not?

Vaccinology 101

Teens, Tweens, Parents and Vaccines: Applying Research to Enhance the Professional/

Family Dialogue

Addressing Parents' Concerns about Vaccines

Making the CASE for Vaccines: A New Model For Communicating with Parents

Protecting your Vaccine: Protecting your Patients

Immunization of Newborn Close Contacts

During Influenza Season Don't Forget Your Long Term Care Facility Residents

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), influenza and invasive pneumococcal disease kill more people in the United States each year than all other vaccine-preventable diseases combined.

Influenza and pneumonia combined represent the fifth leading cause of death in the elderly. Residents of nursing homes or other long term care facilities are among the groups at highest risk.

Research indicates that during influenza epidemics,

mortality rates among nursing home residents often exceed five percent of the nursing home population in the country. To lessen the impact of these infectious diseases, the CDC recommends the influenza and pneumococcal vaccines as the primary way of preventing illness and their complications.

For more information, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/aging/aginginfo/index.htm>



History of the Flu—Facts

The first possible influenza epidemic may have occurred in Europe as early as 1173.

The English adopted the word “influenza” in the mid-eighteenth century, while the French called it la grippe from gripper, meaning “to grasp or hook.” There is also a similar-sounding phrase in Arabic, anfal-anza, which means “nose of the goat,” used because goats were thought to be carriers of the disease.

The single deadliest Influenza pandemic in history, the Spanish Influenza killed more Americans in one year than the combined total who died in battle during WWI, WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

Occurring in the three waves, each of increasing lethality between 1918 and 1919, the Spanish Influenza killed more people in 24 weeks than AIDS did in 24 years. It also killed more people in

one year than smallpox or the Black Plague did in 50 years.

The Influenza viruses can live up to 48 hours on hard, non-porous surfaces such as stainless steel and up to 12 hours on cloth and tissues. They can remain infectious for about one week at human body temperature, over 30 days at freezing temperatures, and indefinitely at temperatures below freezing.



Staff Contacts

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IZ Fax 444-2920

www.immunization.mt.gov

2013 Montana Regional Workshops

April 10, 2013	Miles City	Sleep Inn & Suites
April 11, 2013	Billings	Holiday Inn Grand
April 23, 2013	Great Falls	Hampton Inn
April 30, 2013	Missoula	Holiday Inn

Additional information and registration forms will be sent out early February!